New Mexico Agricultural Statistics Service

Weekly Ag Update

Issue 51-37 1-800-530-8810 e-mail: nass-nm@nass.usda.gov September 10, 2001

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE

Crop Weather ERS

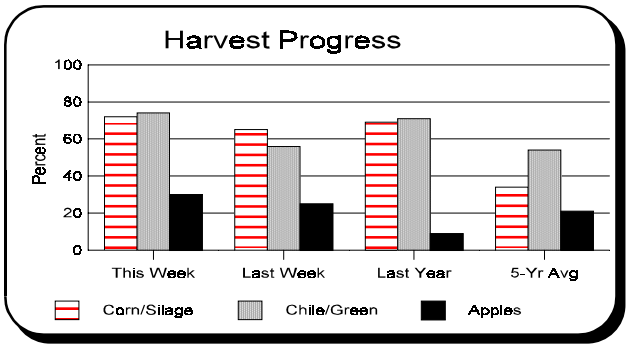
Available in English and Spanish on internet at: www.nass.usda.gov/nm OR by e-mail: (call 1-800-530-8810 for information)

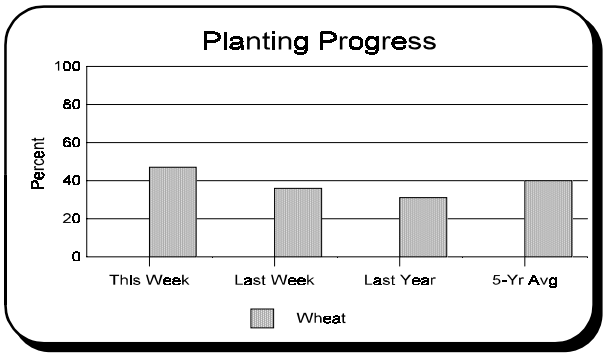
CROP SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 9, 2001

NEW MEXICO: There were 6.9 days suitable for field work. Over the week farmers were pleased with a better growing season than last year while they continued to harvest alfalfa hay, other hay, green chile, corn, melons and green beans. The 5th cutting of alfalfa was 84% complete and the 6th cutting 31% complete. Cotton and corn were listed in mostly fair to excellent condition with 60% of the cotton crop opening bolls and 45% of the corn crop matured. The total sorghum crop was in very poor to good condition with 46% of the crop turning color. Wheat planting continued with 47% planted and along with peanuts were listed in mostly fair to good condition. Ranchers in the north were suffering from a cricket infestation which devoured much needed winter forage. Pasture and range feed was greatly in need of rain with 13% very poor, 33% poor, 41% fair, and 13% good.

CROP PROGRESS PERCENTAGES WITH COMPARISONS

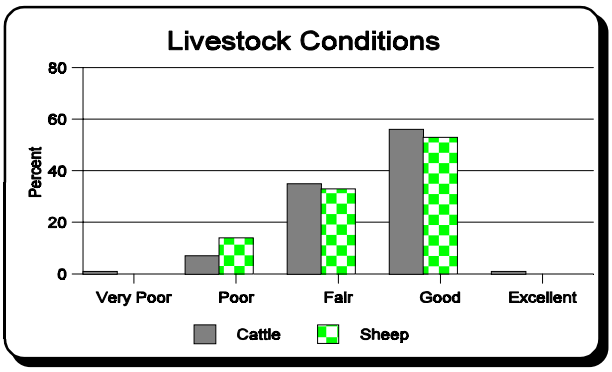
CROP PROGRESS		This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
SORGHUM (All)	Coloring	46	30	52	41
COTTON	Bolls Opening	60	48	51	53
APPLES	Harvested	30	25	9	21
WHEAT	Planted	47	36	31	40
CORN	Mature	45	43	54	32
	Harvest/Silage	72	65	69	34
CHILE	Harvested-Green	74	56	71	54





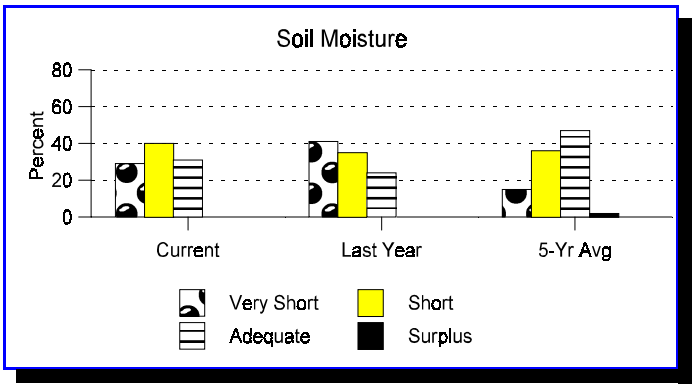
CROP AND LIVESTOCK CONDITION PERCENTAGES

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Alfalfa	–	1	26	63	10
Apples	–	51	48	1	--
Chile	–	14	45	30	11
Corn	--	1	40	52	7
Cotton	--	2	33	56	9
Lettuce	--	–	10	42	48
Peanuts	–	–	52	45	3
Pecans	--	–	22	45	33
Sorghum (All)	16	17	43	24	--
Cattle	1	7	35	56	1
Sheep	–	14	33	53	--



SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTAGES

	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Northwest	12	31	57	--
Northeast	47	43	10	--
Southwest	--	64	36	--
Southeast	50	10	40	--
State	29	40	31	--
State-Last Year	41	35	24	--
State-5-Yr Avg.	15	36	47	2



WEATHER SUMMARY

After a warm beginning, an early season cold front brought below-normal temperatures late in the week that especially affected the north and east. After reaching 103 on the 6th, Carlsbad had a high of only 79 on the 9th. Some areas in the north had an early freeze on the 9th. Scattered showers and thunderstorms produced rain at about one third of the locations earlier in the week. The .35 inches at Las Cruces was the highest amount reported.

NEW MEXICO WEATHER CONDITIONS SEPTEMBER 03-09, 2001

	Temperature			Precipitation				
Station	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	09/03 09/09	09/01 09/09	Normal Sep	01/01 09/09	Normal Jan-Sep
Carlsbad	81.4	103	61	0.00	0.00	2.75	5.00	10.74
Hobbs	78.7	103	57	0.00	0.00	2.60	5.69	13.96
Roswell	76.8	102	56	0.13	0.13	1.87	7.11	10.64
Clayton	65.1	92	39	T	0.00	1.77	9.09	13.38
Clovis	70.6	97	46	T	0.00	2.16	10.49	14.90
Roy	63.1	90	38	0.00	0.00	1.90	8.40	13.74
Tucumcari	70.2	98	43	0.00	0.00	1.47	13.14	12.45
Chama	55.7	80	25	0.02	0.02	2.23	15.91	16.13
Johnson Ranch	61.6	86	33	0.02	0.02	1.33	5.85	9.05
Capulin	56.4	85	23	T	0.00	2.22	10.91	15.30
Las Vegas	61.2	84	32	0.21	0.21	2.07	9.74	14.85
Los Alamos	62.1	81	34	0.01	0.04	2.12	11.98	15.30
Raton	59.6	87	28	T	0.00	1.61	11.41	14.64
Santa Fe	61.7	87	30	0.06	0.06	1.51	8.44	11.54
Red River	52.4	73	22	0.22	0.22	1.66	18.17	16.69
Farmington	67.3	92	35	T	0.00	0.97	4.99	6.33
Gallup	61.7	87	27	0.06	0.06	1.31	8.47	9.67
Grants	63.7	89	26	0.00	0.01	1.56	5.94	8.51
Silver City	68.0	88	47	0.00	0.00	2.22	9.17	12.86
Quemado	63.6	86	34	0.00	0.00	1.43	7.48	9.01
Albuquerque	72.9	91	49	T	0.00	1.00	4.93	7.06
Carrizozo	71.8	92	51	0.00	0.00	1.88	6.29	10.12
Gran Quivera	66.7	87	37	0.00	0.20	1.95	6.25	12.74
Moriarty	63.8	91	30	0.00	0.00	1.61	8.24	10.67
Ruidoso	63.0	82	42	0.00	0.00	2.50	11.92	17.53
Socorro	70.2	94	46	0.02	0.02	1.53	7.50	7.37
Alamogordo	78.9	100	57	0.00	0.00	1.99	0.01	9.91
Animas	77.6	97	54	0.01	0.01	1.68	6.88	8.76
Deming	76.3	96	53	T	0.00	1.63	5.33	8.11
T or C	75.9	96	53	0.15	0.15	1.08	6.64	7.67
Las Cruces	76.1	99	54	0.35	0.35	1.36	4.66	7.28

(T) Trace (-) No Report (*) Correction

All reports based on preliminary data. Precipitation data corrected monthly from official observation forms.

DISSECTING THE CHALLENGES OF MAD COW & FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Agricultural Outlook, USDA, ERS August 2001

Two animal diseases currently affecting European agriculture--foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)--have made headlines throughout the world. Simultaneous occurrence of these diseases in Britain earlier this year caused confusion among consumers worldwide about the issues and interrelationships, and the combined costs to the UK economy have been shared by agriculture, consumers, tourism, and trade.

Both diseases affect producers and consumers through changes in livestock product prices, availability of goods, and costs of production. Trade is also affected as governments restrict imports from FMD- and BSE-infected countries to protect human health, animal health, and domestic livestock industries. The U.S. has a vested interest in the trade aspects of animal health issues worldwide, as U.S. exports of cattle, sheep, hogs, and their products account for about $6-$10 billion, or roughly 10 percent of the value of U.S. farm-level cash receipts for these species.

Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy BSE, also called mad cow disease, is a neurological disease in cattle that was first discovered in Britain in 1986. BSE peaked in British cattle in 1993, and initially it was thought BSE affected only cattle. However, in 1996, the British government announced a possible link between BSE and a new human variant of Cruetzfield-Jacob Disease (nvCJD), and BSE also became a human health/food safety issue.

BSE and its human form, nvCJD, are always fatal. The human version of BSE is thought to be acquired by consuming certain beef or other products from infected cattle. Because nvCJD appears to have an incubation period spanning several years, it is not known if its incidence has peaked in humans.

The United Kingdom (UK)--of which Britain is a part--has been disposing of BSE-infected cattle since 1986, with indemnity payments to farmers and adverse effects on beef production, consumption, and market prices. Cow herds infected with BSE are quarantined and killed, but neighboring farms are not at risk unless their cattle are also fed infected feed. The 1996 outbreak was followed by an immediate 40-percent drop in sales of beef products and a 26-percent drop in household consumption of beef and veal. Total first-year losses to BSE were estimated at 740-980 million (US$1.07-$1.4 billion). The long-run effect on shares of expenditures on beef and veal in the UK are estimated to be a 4.5 percent drop.

Since its discovery in 1986, over 30 hypotheses have been offered for BSE's origin, but the exact cause remains unknown. The lead hypothesis points to rogue proteins (prions) in meat and bone meal produced from sheep infected with scrapie, a related neurological disease. The prions are then thought to be passed on to cows fed this infected meal, causing BSE in cows, and the disease is spread by feeding other cattle prion-infected meat and bone meal produced from infected cows. There is no evidence that BSE spreads through contact between unrelated adult cattle or with other species.

BSE has been confirmed in native cattle in over a dozen other countries, although over 95 percent of all BSE cases have occurred in the UK. There have been no confirmed cases of BSE or nvCJD in the U.S.

Foot-and-Mouth Disease In February 2001, FMD, a highly contagious viral livestock disease, broke out in the UK. The outbreak added to the economic burden of BSE by setting off an additional series of livestock dispositions, indemnities, and effects not only in the agricultural sector, but in tourism and other sectors as well, because of restrictions on travel and animal movement. FMD primarily affects cloven-hoofed animals, such as cattle, sheep, elk, and deer, and can significantly reduce meat and milk production.

Unlike BSE, FMD is not usually fatal to livestock and consumption of meat from infected animals is not considered a food safety issue. There have only been around 40 documented cases of FMD infection in humans worldwide to date--none in the current outbreak. All human cases have been mild and are thought to be due to ingesting unpasteurized infected milk, contact with the airborne virus, or direct contact with infected animals.

Meat from FMD-infected livestock does not pose food safety risks because biochemical changes during processing and cooking destroy the virus. FMD does, however, affect meat and dairy supplies and trade status. Infected or exposed livestock are quarantined and killed, reducing supplies of livestock products. As of July 9, 2001, more than 91 million (US$63 million) in claims had been paid to UK producers. Livestock on farms within the quarantine areas that have not been infected can still be consumed within the quarantine area. Domestic supplies of livestock and livestock products in countries with FMD may even increase as international trading partners ban importation of these products. However, local shortages may appear due to restrictions on animal movement. Only live animals and fresh meat products are banned. Cooked, sealed meat products are not included in the ban.

FMD is very difficult to control. It has occurred in almost every country of the world at some point in history and is endemic in Africa, Asia, and most of South America. Vaccination can help stem an outbreak, but it is not totally effective and jeopardizes export markets--vaccinated animals can be FMD carriers and are thus banned from

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NEW MEXICO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS
PO BOX 1809
LAS CRUCES, NM 88004-1809

WEEKLY AG-UPDATE (USPS 418330) published weekly by USDA NASS, 2507 Telshor Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88011. Periodical postage paid at Las Cruces, NM 88001 and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to AG-UPDATE PO Box 1809, Las Cruces, NM 88004-1809

from international commerce. Whether or not to vaccinate susceptible animals against FMD is a key policy issue faced by countries with FMD and by their trading partners.

Impacts & Implications BSE and FMD vary in their potential as threats to producers and consumers and in their reach regarding the number of animals and people each affects. Around the world, FMD has affected more animals than BSE.

Both FMD and BSE affect livestock product prices in producing and consuming countries because of the effect of disease-response policies on supplies and trade. Prices for livestock and livestock products have declined in the short run in the UK because of BSE and FMD. Unlike FMD, BSE has very serious implications for human health and food safety. In terms of numbers, nvCJD is known to have caused about 100 human deaths (97 in the UK, 2 [possibly 3] in France, and 1 in the Republic of Ireland as of March 30, 2001). About 40 FMD infections in humans have been documented worldwide, though none have been confirmed in the current outbreak and none were serious illnesses. BSE is a more severe animal illness than FMD, as it is invariably fatal.

The economic impact of these two animal diseases varies considerably. The UK Department for Environmental, Food, and Rural Affairs (formerly the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food) estimates costs of BSE to the UK at over $5 billion to date. Economic effects of the recent FMD outbreaks on the British economy and its European Union neighbors have affected agriculture, food consumption, trade, and tourism all over Europe. PricewaterhouseCoopers estimates the range of economic impacts to the UK from 2.5 to 8 billion (US$3.6 to $11.6 billion), or between 0.3 and 0.8 percent of GDP.

Surveillance programs and strict import restrictions are in place to prevent FMD and BSE from entering the U.S. Surveillance costs in the U.S. for all agricultural products are reflected in budgets for the Agriculture Quarantine Inspection Program amounting to $278 million for FY 2001 and $296 million for FY2002. However, it is difficult to separate surveillance costs for BSE and FMD from costs for other diseases.

Measures to prevent occurrence of BSE include regulations limiting the type of feed that can be fed to ruminants, like cattle and sheep. Ruminant feed cannot contain animal protein derived from mammalian tissues. U.S. production of meat and bone meal was just under 4.2 billion pounds in 2000, which was worth about $360 million. Prices for substitute protein supplements, such as soybean meal, are likely to increase as producers reduce feeding of meat and bone meal. Other uses will have to be found for meat and bone meal not used for feed, or disposal methods will need to be devised.

The U.S. has been free of FMD since 1929, when the last of nine outbreaks was eradicated. BSE has never been detected in the U.S. On May 24, 2001, the President signed into law the Animal Disease Risk Assessment, Prevention, and Control Act of 2001 (PL107-9). The Act calls for establishment of a Federal interagency task force to coordinate actions among Federal agencies to prevent the outbreak of BSE and FMD in the U.S. The task force will report to Congress on coordination of interagency activities. It will also report publicly available sources of Federal government information on the diseases, and any immediate needs for additional legislation to prevent the introduction of BSE and FMD.